



Charles R. Middleton

Former President, Roosevelt University (IL)

2000-01, 2009-10, 2012-13 Mentor; 2003-04 and 2004-05 Nominator

Chuck Middleton is chair of the board of trustees of the City Colleges of Chicago and the immediate past president of Roosevelt University, serving from July 2002 through his retirement in June 2015. He is also executive director of the LGBTQ Presidents in Higher Education, an organization which he helped found in 2010. He was the first openly gay man appointed president of a university. During his tenure, he moved to strengthen the curriculum by strategically expanding and refocusing programs based on Roosevelt's strengths and mission. He also oversaw the transition of Roosevelt from a primarily commuter school with part-time adult students in the majority to a more traditional-age, full-time residential university. The number of full-time equivalent students dramatically grew during his tenure. Prior to his service as president, Middleton was a history professor and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Bowling Green State University (OH), and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University System of Maryland. He has been active as a university leader and involved in higher education governance organizations for many decades, including service on the board of the American Council on Education. His scholarly accomplishments earned him election as a fellow of Britain's Royal Historical Society and he currently serves on the boards of SAGE and PFLAG where he advocates for LGBTQ rights.



Sara Jayne Steen

President Emerita, Plymouth State University (NH)

2002-03 ACE Fellow; 2015-16 Nominator

Sara Jayne Steen served for nine years as president of Plymouth State University (PSU), from 2006 to 2015.

During her tenure, the campus received doctoral authority and added doctoral programs in education and in physical therapy; developed undergraduate programs in fields such as nursing and environmental science; and expended well over \$100 million in new and remodeled facilities to increase academic and recreational opportunities for students. Experiential learning was an emphasis, and by 2015, 94 percent of PSU undergraduates had participated in at least one experiential learning activity before graduation. Under her leadership, PSU received awards for sustainability, internationalization, and community engagement and twice was named one of *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* Great Colleges to Work For.

Steen has served on many state, local, and national boards. At the national level, she served, among others, on the executive council of the Association of Departments of English; the ACE Committee on Effective Leadership; and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Committee on Policies and Purposes, its public policy board.

Before coming to PSU, she was dean of the College of Letters and Science at Montana State University; an ACE Fellow in residence at the University of Delaware; and professor and chair of the Department of English at Montana State University.

Raised in northern Ohio, she holds undergraduate and doctoral degrees in English from Bowling Green State University (OH) and a master's degree from The Ohio State University. The first in her family to attend college, Steen emphasizes the transformative power of education.

Steen's scholarship focuses on the recovery of writings by early modern English women, and she is the author or editor of five books and dozens of articles and book chapters. She continues to be active in her field. In addition, she has spoken and written on issues related to leadership and higher education public policy.

Steen has received awards for teaching, scholarship, and service. She was recognized for her professional achievements by the Graduate College at Bowling Green State University; honored in New Hampshire for her support of internationalization; and at her retirement, among other recognitions, received PSU's Theo Kalikow Award for support of women's issues, and the inaugural Imagine A Way Award for having made a difference not only to the campus but to the wider Plymouth community.



Ronald L. Carter

President, Johnson C. Smith University (NC)

Ronald L. Carter began his work as the 13th president of Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) in Charlotte, North Carolina on July 1, 2008. Since taking the helm, Carter has expanded the mission of JCSU in seven key areas: increased mutually beneficial partnerships with local and national businesses and organizations; enhanced financial footing; used metrics and measurements to drive performance; recruited a stronger faculty and staff; implemented a more thoughtful approach to technology; elevated student performance, retention and achievements; and improved the athletic program.

Building on JCSU's 150 years of undeniable progress, Carter and his team of leaders have transformed the institution into an independent new urban university with intellectually rigorous programs that support new generations of change agents. Besides academics, a JCSU education now includes a global perspective, heightened social activism and a vibrant culture of community that extends beyond campus gates.

Much of Carter's success at JCSU can be attributed to his commitment to team leadership. With the aid of a carefully assembled, robust group of high-impact performers, Carter has increased the university's majors from 22 to 25, debuted JCSU's first graduate degree that has grown by 49 percent in two years, and expanded academic offerings to two fully online, digital degree programs. He and the board of trustees increased the university's endowment from \$47.4M to \$64.4M and, with the help of Trustee Monroe Miller, championed the establishment of the President's Gap Scholarship Fund. To date, \$5.6 million has been raised to bridge students' financial aid shortfalls. He empowered the development office to launch TOMORROW Is What WE Make It, the largest comprehensive campaign in the university's history. The \$150 million goal goes toward campus and capital projects, scholarships, academic resources, and the Annual Fund—providing access to a high-quality education for every deserving student and the financial means to support their journey.

Carter's leadership in Charlotte's Northwest Corridor has led to a revitalization of the formerly blighted area. His significant investments in the community include a state-of-the-art, \$45 million, 62,000-square-foot science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research facility on campus and the construction of Mosaic Village, a \$25 million, 124,000-square-foot mixed-use housing and retail space that provides employment and entertainment to students and local residents. The Arts Factory, JCSU's main performance space for the new major, opened its doors in 2010 and has since become a cornerstone of the creative boom in the area, with a groundbreaking partnership that resulted in On Q Productions, one of Charlotte's most celebrated theatrical companies, being housed there. And the university played a vital role in the development and construction of the CityLYNX Gold Line streetcar, which will link JCSU to Uptown and will stimulate economic development along Beatties Ford Road.

New student populations have been identified and nurtured through innovative programs such as the Foster Village Network Center, which provides academic and social support to students who have aged out of foster care; English as a Second Language certification program Caminos Hacia el Exito; and increased recruitment in Caribbean, Latin American and African countries. As further preparation for the demographic shifts and challenges facing higher education, Carter established Metropolitan College for adult learners and University College, a comprehensive student support educational program based on metacognitive research. He has addressed deferred maintenance challenges on campus.

Carter graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Morehouse College (GA) with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and philosophy, then earned a master of theology degree and a PhD in philosophy of religion from Boston University. He began his career at Boston University and advanced to become the school's youngest dean of students. In the 1980s, his interaction with Nelson Mandela's relatives compelled him to work in South Africa. His tenure in South Africa began at University of the North, before becoming dean of students and one of the first black senior administrators at the traditionally white institution of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. He returned to the United States in 1997 as the provost and dean of faculty at Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina.

Dr. Carter serves on many boards, including Charlotte Center City Partners, Charlotte Executive Leadership Council, Opera Carolina, Mint Museum, Fifth Third Bank Affiliate Board, Association of Governing Boards and the United Negro College Fund. He currently serves as chairman of the CIAA Board of Directors. He received the 2011 Charlotte Catalyst Humanitarian Award for his efforts in diversity and philanthropy. In 2013, he received the Creative Thinkers Award for his leadership in building Mosaic Village as part of Charlotte's Northwest Corridor revitalization. He also received the Latin American Excelente Award in 2013 for supporting the Latino community. In 2014, The Charlotte Post presented Dr. Carter with its Luminary Award. He has two children, Tumelo Rosalind Carter and Cory Demetrius Carter. He has also been the foster parent of four children.



Theodora J. Kalikow

President Emerita, University of Maine at Farmington

1983-84 ACE Fellow

Theodora Kalikow served as the president of the University of Southern Maine from 2012-14, before stepping into a vice chancellor role with the University of Maine System. She was previously the president of the University of Maine at Farmington from 1994-2012.

Kalikow got her start in higher education during the academic year 1967-68, when she served as tutor in philosophy at the University of Exeter in England. In 1968-69, she began teaching at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where she attained the rank of professor and served as department chair and faculty union president.

In 1981 Kalikow became the interim assistant to the president at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and during 1983-84 she served as an American Council on Education Fellow at Brown University (RI).

From 1984 to 1987 she was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Northern Colorado, and in 1987 she moved to Plymouth State College (NH), where she served as dean of the college (with one year as interim president) until 1994.

Kalikow earned her AB in chemistry from Wellesley College (MA) in 1962. After working in a laboratory at the Columbia University (NY) College of Physicians and Surgeons, she attended graduate school in the Boston area, receiving an ScM in philosophy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1970, and a PhD in philosophy from Boston University in 1974.

Kalikow is actively engaged with an array of organizations, including the Maine Campus Compact Executive Board, the State Sub-Cabinet for Multicultural Affairs, the Maine Economic Growth Council, and the Finance Authority of Maine. She chairs the University of Maine System's Diversity Committee.

In 2001 Kalikow was inducted to the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. She received the Maryann Hartman Award in from the University of Maine Women's Studies Program in 2000 for her achievements which have inspired other women.

The University of New England (UNE) honored Kalikow with the Deborah Morton Award for her leadership in Maine's educational and civic life in 2006. This award is presented annually to recognize women who have achieved distinction in their careers and their service to the public. UNE also conferred an honorary doctor of humane letters degree on Kalikow in 2012. In 2007 she received the Green Building Leadership Award from the Maine Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council for her pioneering work in establishing high standards of environmental responsibility for higher education in Maine.



M. Valeriana Moeller

President Emeritus, Columbus State Community College (OH)

M. Valeriana Moeller served as president for 14 years at Columbus State Community College, a two-year urban college with an enrollment of more than 28,000 students. Before retiring in June 2010, she was committed to the mission of the comprehensive community college, promoted that mission through her leadership and vision at the college, and was instrumental in developing new programs to help address the community's need for a trained workforce.

Among her initiatives were the new Community Education/Workforce Development Division, an innovative welfare-to-work program, and the creation of the Internet-based Global Campus distance learning program, the Leadership Institute, and the development of a new campus in Delaware County.

Prior to her service at Columbus State, Moeller was executive vice president and provost of Lansing Community College in Lansing, Michigan. She has three decades of leadership experience at colleges in Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio.

She was the president of the board of trustees of the Columbus Medical Association Foundation. She also served on the boards of directors of the Center of Science and Industry, Capitol South Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation, Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank Central Ohio. She is a past member of the Board of the American Council on Education.

Born in India, she was raised in Portugal, where she began her career as a high school chemistry teacher. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Lisbon (Portugal) and master's and doctoral degrees from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.



Peggy R. Williams

President Emerita, Ithaca College (NY)

1998-99, 2004-05, and 2008-09 Nominator

Peggy R. Williams earned a bachelor's degree from the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto (Canada). She also holds a master of education degree from the University of Vermont and a doctorate in administration, planning, and social policy from Harvard University (MA). She is a citizen of both the United States and Canada, having lived in the United States since 1968.

Before entering the field of education, Williams was a social worker for the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont and the Monroe County Department of Social Services in New York. She went on to hold various positions within the Vermont State Colleges system and later joined Trinity College of Vermont, in Burlington, as an associate professor, ultimately becoming chair of the business and economics department and associate academic dean. Prior to being named the seventh—and first female—president of Ithaca College in 1997, she was president of Lyndon State College in Lyndonville, Vermont, for eight years.

Williams has been a leading proponent of sustainability, having signed the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, and she has set an example with regard to community service, having instituted the annual Celebration of Service while at Ithaca. Additionally, she frequently presented a workshop on humor in the workplace for Ithaca College's Leadership Scholars program, and the college instituted the Peggy R. Williams Award for Academic and Community Leadership in her honor.

At Ithaca College, she served as a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Presidents Council and as a member of its subcommittee on gender and diversity issues. She also served on the boards of directors of the Foundation for Educational Exchange between Canada and the United States of America (Fulbright Canada) and the American Council on Education, for which she chaired the Commission on Women in 2009 and received the ACE Donna Shavlik Award in recognition of her lifelong commitment to advancing women's issues in higher education. She also has participated in Women Swimmin' for Hospicare, a swim across Cayuga Lake to benefit Hospicare and Palliative Care Services of Tompkins County, and the AIDS Ride for Life.

When Williams retired from Ithaca College, the board of trustees presented her with an honorary degree and endowed a new discussion symposium in her honor: the Peggy R. Williams Difficult Dialogues Symposium. Williams's current activities include service as a trustee on the board of Saint Michael's College (VT), where she serves as chair of the Committee on Institutional Advancement; member of the Finance Committee of American Association of University Women (AAUW); and director of Vermont Public Radio, where she serves as vice chair and a member of the Finance and Planning Committees; and member of the International Women's Forum. Williams lives in Johnson, Vermont, and Fernie, British Columbia.